and fixed in terms of *paras* and *edangalies* and that a new and reasonable measure for the *marakkal* be introduced in Nanjanad.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

142. Public streets and thoroughfares.

Mr. S. Y. Gnanakkan (Member, Nominated) said that, of late, there had been considerable misunderstandings and misgivings in South Travancore regarding the right of using the public streets and thoroughfares by the different communities. Except in rural and out-of-the-way places, the people had a tendency to live on the sides of streets and roads. There were some private streets which belonged exclusively to the persons living there. Very often, people put up houses on the sides of unregistered public lanes and highways, which were perhaps the only means of communication at the locality. First of all, a few relations and friends came and settled down in a particular locality. Gradually, other friends and members of the class joined them. Thus, the streets became eventually occupied by a particular class. A good many public streets originated in the above manner. All the public roads and streets were Government *porambokes* and they were treated as such in the last Settlement. Of late, certain classes of people took a wrong view and raised strong objections to some of the streets being used by other classes of people, especially when the latter passed through the streets in procession accompanied by music. There was, however, no objection to people of whatever denomination passing through such streets ordinarily. Sometimes the remonstrances led to serious breaches of the peace. Oftentimes, the right claimed of passing through the streets in procession and the supposed right to resist such passage were carried into effect and serious consequences ensued. Even marriage and religious processions were not allowed to pass through some streets. It did not stand to reason why a particular class should not move through such streets in procession accompanied by music. It was not possible always to secure the aid of the constituted authorities to meet the difficulties complained above. Even where difficulties were anticipated and aid sought for beforehand, it was very seldom that real practical help was rendered to the people. The impression that other classes of people had no right to pass through some streets in procession accompanied by music had been fast growing in the minds of certain classes of persons, and, unless the misundertanding were removed there would be danger of public streets being blocked up and rendered inaccessible to all classes of people. All people should be allowed the free exercise of their natural and unquestionable rights as subjects of the State. They should not be molested or put to inconvenience in the pursuit of their legitimate functions. The Member earnestly prayed that the question might receive the early attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

143. Dilapidated condition of the Araya temple at Alappad in the Karunagapalli taluk.

Mr. K. Velayudha Panikkan (Member, Nominated) said that the Government had originally sanctioned a sum of *fanams* 17¾ every month for meeting the *pooja* expenses of the Ganapathi temple at Alappad belonging to his community and that the above grant was not being paid from the year 1077 on account of certain disputed claims. Though the persons who were originally conducting the *poojas* were no more and though the Government were not disbursing the sanctioned grant from 1077, the *poojas*, etc., were being regularly performed up to the present day. The temple was also in a dilapidated condition. The Member, therefore, prayed that the sanctioned grant might be arranged to be paid regularly, and that the temple might be repaired and restored to its former condition or the required timber given to the people for effecting the repairs.

Dewan's reply.—The matter will be looked into.

144. Needs of the Eraniel taluk.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel taluk) said that the necessity for raising the standard of the L. G. S. school at Eraniel was long felt. The number of school-going children in the taluk was not small, when compared with the Agastiswaram taluk which had a College and two High Schools besides other Government schools. Several students had to discontinue their studies on account of the absence

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of a High School. Repeated representations had been made to the Government both in and out of the Assembly for raising the standard of the L. G. S. School. There were sufficient boys attending the school. Some of the Inspecting officers had recorded the opinion that the standard of the school should be raised. The Member, therefore, prayed that the standard of the school be raised to the Sixth Form and that the Fourth Form be opened in the current year itself.

The Member next said that certain irrigation tanks in the Midalam *pakuthi* stood in need of urgent repair. The tanks were Kadinjakulam, Perunnakulam, Alakulam and Chenkazhaneerkulam. The last two and the first were silted up. They should be deepened and provided with proper outlets for taking water to the paddy fields. A proper outlet should be provided for the Perunnakulam also to carry water to the fields. Similar irrigation works should also be undertaken in the *pakuthis* of Kizhumidalam, Kizhukulam, Killiyur and Nattalam which were also within the uncommanded area. At present, there were continued failures of crops owing to the want of proper water-supply. The Member prayed that the irrigation works mentioned above might be taken up early.

Lastly, the Member pointed out that, owing to the insufficiency of water in the Eraniel channel and branch channels, there was not a sufficient supply of water for the wet lands in the commanded area. Of the 13,474 acres of land included under the commanded area in the taluk, only an extent of 3,070 acres had been converted into wet lands, which was not even one-fourth of the total area. There was a growing complaint that the water was not uniformly distributed. The present system of water distribution adopted by the Irrigation Department was not satisfactory. The capacity of the channels should be increased. The rich and the influential people generally got a sufficient supply. The ryots were not found willing to convert more lands, owing to the unsatisfactory system of water-supply. To obviate the evils complained above, the Member suggested the creation of Irrigation Boards. The Boards should be empowered to appoint subordinates to see to the distribution of water in each block satisfactorily and also to realise the cost of employing such staff from the ryots concerned. If any one should be found unwilling to pay such dues, steps should be taken against him under the Revenue Recovery Regulation. It should be so arranged that in Irrigation matters both the Irrigation Department and the Revenue Department should consult the Boards. By creating such Boards and thereby ensuring an efficient system of water-supply, thousands of acres of paddy lands would be benefited in the Eraniel and Kalkulam taluks and the Government would be able to realise a substantial revenue therefrom. The Member, therefore, prayed that the capacity of the channels be increased and Irrigation Boards created to obviate the evils pointed out.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

145. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai, B. A., Bar-at-law (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that he had represented last year the necessity for repairing the irrigation channel which took its source at Anathazhachira in Pallipuram and flowed into the Veli lake and that nothing appeared to have been done to restore the channel. The question was an important one and it affected the interests of many agriculturists. Last year, the flood in the channel did great damage to the crops. The Member, therefore, prayed that the repair of the channel might receive the early attention of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—An estimate for the work has been called for from the Chief Engineer and is awaited.

146. Needs of the Quilon taluk.

Mr. C. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon taluk) said that an English school for girls sanctioned for Quilon was, at the instance of Dr. Mitchell, ordered to be opened at Chengannur. The local Mission School at the Tuem Church was far away and was inconveniently situated. There was no doubt that, considering the number of girls now receiving instruction in the several Elementary schools in the

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